

VOICES FROM WITHIN

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# VOICES FROM WITHIN.

Original Thoughts of  
RAI SAHIB GOBIN LAL BONNERJEE,  
"Lotus Lodge" Calcutta.

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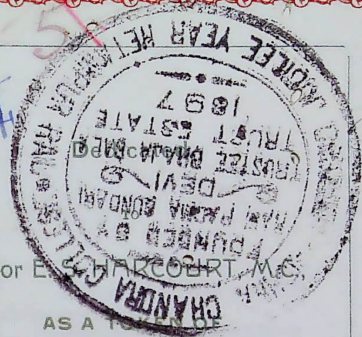
Major E. H. COURTNEY

AS A TESTIMONY

high appreciation

and affection

OF THE  
AUTHOR.



BR 56  
B

"Infinitely great, infinitely little,  
infinite for past and future,  
Everything is infinite around us,  
infinite alike within us."

## VOICES FROM WITHIN.

1.

Do something useful every day ;  
some good to a friend or a fellow-being ;  
be it in act, speech or thought.

2.

Your highest ideal is in your own  
self, and nowhere else in this world.  
It only requires your earnest endeavour  
to attain it, develop it, perfect it, and  
make it the ideal of the whole world.

2

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

3.

Do not form any opinion of others,  
nor think of what opinion they form  
of you.

4.

Beauty is not in the object seen,  
nor is it in the eyes that see it, but it  
is in the point of view from which the  
object is seen.

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imposes upon him.

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

3

6.

Selfish motive is often carefully  
concealed under a garb of pure dis-  
interestedness.

7.

Be sincere, and you will see that no  
one can be insincere to you. Be pure  
in thought, speech and deed, and you  
will see that everything impure will  
fly from you.

8.

Genius is ever unconscious of itself.  
The moment a man feels that he is  
great, his greatness has already begun  
to wane.

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

9.

Common courtesies cost nothing,  
but can command all the wealth and  
honour of the world.

10.

Man is his own mischief-maker ;  
either by his acts or words, or thoughts  
or imagination.

11.

In cursing others you bring down  
all the curses of Heaven upon you.  
So, do not think evil of anybody. Evil  
thought rebounds upon its originator  
with redoubled vehemence for its  
fruition.

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

12.

To conquer the Devil is to fly from  
him ; the more you struggle, the more  
ignoble will be your defeat.

13.

To trample on others' feelings is  
not the height of glory. Feel with your  
fellow-beings and respect their feelings ;  
therein lies the glory of man and his  
Creator.

14.

Excess of energy, be it of the body  
or of the mind, is always fraught with  
dreadful consequences.

6

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

15.

Outspokenness is a very costly luxury which a man of sentiment often indulges in indiscreetly. It costs one the good feelings of his friends, his peace of mind, his good name, and sometimes life itself.

16.

A life of ease is not always an easy life, nor is a life of labour always troublesome

17.

Try to please everybody you meet or have to deal with in this world. If that be not possible, see that you do not displease anybody.

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7

18.

One who cannot command the respect of others, does not deserve respect. Self-respect reflects respect.

19.

The plucky man is always the lucky man. Man is the maker of his fortune ; fortune never makes the man.

20.

Love is the sentiment often taken as an affection of the mind, but it is the perfection of the soul.

21.

Always see that you do what is laudable, but never hanker after any one's applause.

22.

Everybody can love, but few only know how to appreciate it in others.

23.

To owe little is much more comfortable than to own much.

24.

Vanity is a form of insanity, the remedy of which is not yet known.

25.

You can become immortal if you only live like a *man*. Mortality is spoken of your body, and not of your *self*.

26.

Painful experiences pave the way of life, and save the sufferer from many a pitfall in his future career.

27.

A man may err a thousand times, but his earnest efforts to mend his errors keep him far away from their serious consequences.

10 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

28.

Self-consciousness is the fruit of self-forgetfulness. Forget yourself and you will at once begin to be conscious of your Higher Self.

29.

Soul's immortality is realised in one's constant feeling of personal identity throughout life.

30.

Sincerity and simplicity are the two faces of the only coin that obtains currency in the kingdom of God. Sincerity is the inner, and simplicity is the outer face of it.

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31.

Man's miseries are but the fruits of his own failing, or the fabrications of his fancy.

32.

Do not leave anything to be done till the eleventh hour ; for, it often so happens that the tenth hour demands it.

33

To live a happy life, either make yourself useful to the world, or make the world useful to you.

12 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

34.

Life's best opportunities always come in disguise ; if you are not keen enough to discern them, they will slip from you for ever.

35.

If you are not appreciated by the world, do not depreciate yourself, but work on till your worth is well known to all.

36.

Do not complain of the inconveniences and the inconsistencies of life, but make them convenient and consistent with it.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 13

37.

Personality is far higher than position. The ordinary man often loses his personality in a high position, but the man of character never forgets it, however high he may be placed in this world.

38.

Deep waters always flow silently ; a noisy stream bespeaks a shallow bed. Feelings of depth are always mute ; they are eloquent when they are hollow.

39.

Good fortune always comes unexpected ; when expected, it does not come at all.

40.

Friendship, in modern society, is a fashionable term for mutual self-seeking. It really means forgetting self.

41.

If the pus is deep-seated in our heart, the Divine Doctor drives the lancet deep into it, for the bad matter must have an outlet.

42.

Do not think ill of any one, nor ever wish him evil; for, the evil thought and the evil wish shall only augment your anguish, instead of doing him any harm.

43.

Every man must have his own way: but there is no harm if anybody prevents him from going astray.

44.

Man's position often changes his disposition. It is disposition that makes the man, position often unmakes him.

45.

Man can only love himself; when he thinks he loves any one else, he simply loves himself, in or through the medium of his beloved. It is mere self-projection or self-appreciation; but true love is self-annihilation.

46.

Man is never satisfied with his lot, be it ever so happy or miserable. He does not know that nothing is allotted to him arbitrarily by Heaven ; every bit of pleasure or pain, is his own earning, as a reward or a punishment for what he has done.

47.

The pleasure of giving is infinitely greater and sweeter than that of receiving. So, try always to make others happy instead of seeking happiness for yourself.

48.

In utter helplessness one can still find courage and fortitude. Helplessness is not always hopelessness

49.

Inevitable is the law of Divine Justice, though inscrutable at times it may seem to be.

50.

In fortune man fears that his friends may envy him ; in misery he fancies that they may hate him. His fears or fancies are not often unfounded : he is never happy.

18 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

51.

Men never enjoy things, but are the sport of things. It is in the nature of things that they are quite independent of men.

52.

Fear Him and everybody will fear you; love Him and everybody will love you. Love perfected in God pervades the universe.

53.

Do not think too much of yourself; the world can go on without you. No man, under the sun, is indispensable.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 19

54.

In all his achievements man usurps the glory of God. His wisdom and energy, his pluck and patience, his means and method, his opportunity and favourable field, all are the gifts of God, but he takes the credit for success to himself.

55.

There are moments in every man's life when he perfectly realises that everything that happens in this world is regulated by a higher wisdom and a higher will. He has nothing to complain of, none to blame.

56.

In the kingdom of God there is but one state of things, and that is of perpetual bliss.

57.

Your best friend is he with whom you have least to deal. The more one has to deal with a friend, the greater is the chance of making the worst enemy of him.

58.

✓ "Give and take" is the prevailing principle in all the affairs of the world ; but in the realm of love, it is always 'take and take'.

59.

Every man is responsible for his own actions, not so much to anybody else in this world, as to his own self ; for, none is more concerned with their consequences than he.

60.

Man often forgets his benefactor, and even tries to forget him, simply because the memory of his past miseries is not pleasant to him. The very thought of his well-doer reminds him of the humiliation he felt in seeking his help in a difficulty which he has already got over.

61.

Day and night come and go, but you remain the same; joy and sorrow come and go, but you are still the same; youth and age come and go, but you remain the self-same man, they can make you neither young nor old; life and death come and go by turn, but you are not affected at all; the world may change every moment, or even cease to exist, but you are what you are, and will ever be the same—unchanged and unchangeable.

62.

Curt but candid manners are far better than courtesy counterfeit.

63

Man's meanness is measured by his incapacity to delight in others' good fortune, or to contain himself in his own.

64.

When an ordinary man rises, by chance, to a high position, he avoids the company or even the sight of his old friends who know his real worth.

65.

Too much cunning often betrays one's foolishness, or at least a weak intellect.

24 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

66.

We make many mistakes in life which can never be mended. A moment's inadvertence or indiscretion may bring us perpetual distress

67.

There are people who, in their fortune fail to recognise their past friends, or at least seem to forget them; but when frolicsome fortune forsakes them, they would fain find out their old friends and would stoop to all sorts of feigning and flattery to fulfill their object.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 25

68.

Prosperity is a perpetual perplexity, unless the one blessed with it has a strong personality to withstand its illusions and well understands the proper use of its real blessing.

69.

A sweet face readily attracts the mind, but a sweet tongue permanently captivates it.

70.

Try to know everything of something, and something of everything.

71.

It is always the low-born who cannot breathe freely in a high position ; if they ever do, they only keep up an artificial respiration for a time, and then suddenly collapse.

72.

We are oftner deceived in our own expectations, than we deceive others in their expectations from us.

73.

The highest perfection of love is to love all living beings, and to find your Love in every one of them.

74.

Man is very fond of imagining things which may not exist or come to exist at all. His false fears and feeble fancies often torment him more than his real dangers.

75.

True love never lacks, unless its receptacle is leaky : it always flows, even to overflowing.

76.

A slight suspicion, a little doubt, or a momentary misgiving sometimes poisons one's life for ever.

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77.

Sham sincerity is almost synonymous with sinister motive. One must learn to discern it to avoid serious troubles.

78.

Better far to die of anguish, than to seek redress for a wrong from the wrong-doer.

79.

Life has its lustre and shade ; the brighter the lustre, the darker will be the shade.

VOICES FROM WITHIN 29

80.

Man must die, but when, where, and how, no one knows. The most certain and uncertain of all things is death.

81.

A man can never exceed the limits of his *self*, nor the limitations of *not-self*.

82.

He who prays for Heaven's grace must himself be gracious. Graciousness is but another name for gratefulness to God.

30 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

83.

The source of true love is never known, its course is never-ending, and its force is ever-increasing.

84.

Love is always selfless. Where there is self-love, there is only self, and love has no meaning there. It is in the ashes of self that the seed of pure love grows.

85.

Never try to please anybody ; your efforts will displease him. Simply love him, and please yourself.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 31

86.

Sincerity cares not for appreciation, nor is it ever appreciated by the insincere.

87.

If you cannot understand, do not misunderstand. Misunderstanding begets misfortune in more than many cases.

88.

Nothing happens by chance ; everything has a long history in the past.

32 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

89.

The seed perishes for the tree and re-appears in the fruit it produces, for future sacrifices to perpetuate the tree.

90.

Never discuss anything to a great length. Acrimony is often the outcome of hot discussion.

91.

The vanity of one man snubs the vanity of another. Diamond cuts diamond.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 33

92.

When there is greatness within, everything is great outside.

93.

Perfection is never attained ; but an earnest attempt to attain it, removes all our imperfections.

94.

Ask a favour of your friend, and you will lose the fervour of his friendship. The beggar in the street is far more happy than he who has to beg a favour from a friend, however fast his friendship may be.

95.

Never teach any one, let him learn. Learning is abiding, teaching is transient.

96.

The greatest misfortune that can befall a man, is to have a friend who does not mend him.

97.

Be pushing and every one will push you from all sides. That is how one pushes on in this world.

98.

A cutting joke not only cuts through its object, but also rebounds with redoubled sharpness to cut through its origin.

99.

Tease anybody, and you shall cease to enjoy your own ease of mind.

100.

Never live a double life, in private as well as in public; be the self-same man. Be what you are, never appear to be what you are not.

101.

Ignore an evil, and you will not feel its sting : forget it, and you will get rid of it.

102.

Every breath of man changes him ; he who changes not, is not a man, but a divine being.

103.

Man's greatest blunder is to think that he can check or regulate the course of events. It is the drift of circumstances that control and regulate the current of his life.

104.

The more you taste a sweet thing, the more distasteful it will be. The pleasure is not in tasting, but in having sweet things to taste.

105

It is the height of human folly to expect perpetual light in life. Clouds must come and go to obstruct for a time the eternal sun-shine within.

106.

Knowledge is a boon if it is rightly exercised, otherwise it is worse than a curse.

107.

Grieve not for the good things  
God denies you, but be grateful to Him  
for those that you enjoy, and for the  
evils from which He always protects  
you.

108.

Life's greatest joys always come  
unexpected. Expected events of bliss  
are never so enjoyed as those that  
take us by surprise.

109.

Care not for imaginary evils,  
but fight bravely with the real ones.

110.

Friends and foes every man must  
have, but to treat them both with  
loving kindness, equally and sincerely,  
is the highest perfection of human life.

111.

Never tell a lie, nor a truth which  
has the slightest semblance of it, that is,  
has the remotest chance of being mis-  
taken, misunderstood or misconstrued.

112.

One can discover a thousand defects  
in others, but cannot mend a single  
one of his own.

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113.

Run after a thing, and it will run away all the faster from you. Run away from it, and it will run after you with greater force and speed.

114.

Silence and solitude are the two great factors of success. The one concentrates energy, and the other concentrates the mind.

115.

A sweet and sincere smile soothes and solaces the soul, silently and more successfully than a series of sermons of sham sympathy.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 41

116.

Sheer satisfaction of the senses is often mistaken for sentiment. Senses cease to act or feel when real sentiment reigns supreme in the mind.

117.

Wait not for an opportunity for doing something good, but create the opportunity yourself. Opportunity comes only to the man who knows how to make it, and make the best use of it, and not to him who only seeks it.

42 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

118.

The present moment is the adjustment of the eternal past and the eternal future. So, none should be aggrieved at another's good fortune, or at the misfortune of his own.

119.

The fine line of demarcation between affection and affectation is so faint and feeble, that it is not perceptible to many ; that is why there is so much disaffection and disappointment in this world.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 43

120.

Blessed is the man who never thinks of the past, nor of the future, but always makes the best use of the present.

121.

Many people will pose as your friend, just to get something done by you ; but as soon as they gain their object, they assume their real character. Posing can secure a position only for a time, and the poser is exposed very soon.

44

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122.

Peace is another name for the power of enduring troubles. Troubles you will have, but you will be at perfect peace, if you are not troubled with them.

123.

It requires a far nobler heart to rejoice with a man in his good fortune, than to sympathise with him in his misery.

124.

Beware of an imminent fall from an eminent position. Your head is prone to be giddy in high elevations.

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

45

125.

Human life is a sweet song in perfect harmony with the world—complete in itself with all its hard and soft notes, and its rhythm in tune with the universe.

126.

People will suggest various ways and means of gaining your object, but you should know that there is but *one* way and *one* means of success, and *that* is your whole-hearted devotion.

127.

Live in the world, but be not worldly. Worldliness deteriorates life.

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128.

Man would be ashamed of showing so many different faces to the world, if he could see his own face.

129.

If your friend forgets you, you never forgive him ; but if he forgives you, you forget it in a few moments.

130.

If anybody boasts of his wisdom, know him to be a fool. A truly wise man is never conscious of his own worth.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 47

131.

If you are satisfied that you have done your utmost, then everybody will be satisfied with your work.

132.

Life's joys and sorrows are but diversions to break its monotony. None should take them seriously, for God never meant them to be long-lasting

133.

Cease to think of a disease, and it will die out by degrees : think of it, and it will take root in you.

134

Make the most of the little that you have, and you will, in course of time, get most of the things that you have not.

135.

See a thing from all the possible points of view. Your own view-point may not lead you to a correct judgment of it.

136.

Keep up the simplicity and cheerfulness of a child, and you will never grow old. When your head will turn gray, your heart will remain green.

137.

Every one imagines that his friend or neighbour is happier than he, but he knows not in what does real happiness consist.

138.

Devoted service of God, is sovereignty over all his creation. He who serves Him sincerely, transcends all laws of body and mind.

139.

Speak not from the lips, nor from the lungs, but from still deeper down—from the very core of thy heart.

50 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

140.

Philosophy will tell you that love is mutual, but in actual life you will find that it is always one-sided. Very seldom are the lover and the beloved equally attached to each other, or equally happy. One will be invariably found to complain of the indifference of the other.

141.

When you are in touch with the eternal, your everything will exceed limitations—your energy, your capacity, your faculties, your fancies, and your felicity.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 51

142.

Man often thinks that he is dependent on many things in the world, but in fact he is dependent of one thing only, and that is his own will. The moment he depends entirely upon the will of God, he becomes independent of everything else in this world.

143.

Prosperity and position very often make a man poor in health, unhappy in mind, deprived of peace, devoid of fellow-feeling, forsaken by his friends, fooled by favour-seekers, forgotten by the favoured, and followed by his foes.

144.

Seekers of sympathy and beggars of favour are never welcome to their friends, but their foes rejoice at their folly.

145

Bear all troubles, and the troubles will bear you up. Troubles never kill a man, but make him all the more strong in fighting with them.

146.

Man never knows what is really good for him. He always hankers after a thing or a state of things not congenial to his nature or culture.

147.

The dumb eloquence of a sincerely grateful heart, is far more impressive than a thousand hollow expressions of gratitude in high-sounding words.

148.

In solitude you merge into *self*; amidst men you are lost in *not-self*. When *self* is realised in *not-self*, it is all one wherever you are, be it in a cave or a crowd.

149.

A good work done often sows the seeds of many more works of greater utility and welfare to mankind.

150.

In the kingdom of God everything goes on all right unless or until you wish or try to change its normal course. All events tend to your welfare, and eventually fulfill the benign will of God

151.

Man knows not many things he ought to know, but aspires after and acquires the knowledge of many things with which he is not at all concerned, either for the present or for the future.

152.

We waste most of our time and energy in devising plans of work which we never undertake at all. Firm resolution to do a thing finds out means to do it to a finish without fail.

153.

Success is the last term of a series of successive failures, and the first term of a series of further successes in the future.

154

The moment one thinks that he is passing happy days, his bad days will appear not very far in the future.

155.

Please God and every body will please you and be pleased with you. The source of eternal delight is within you ; enjoy it, and let others have a share of your joy.

156.

Pelf or position should have no precedence amongst friends. The first principle and foundation of true friendship is a sincere feeling of equality in every respect. A peasant and a prince may be fast friends in spite of their seeming difference.

157.

The greatest devil you have to deal with every day is your own mind. It always tempts you to many things you ought to avoid. The best way to control it, is to keep it ever engaged in doing or thinking of something good.

158.

Joys and sorrows are the light and shade of life ; so are delight and despair, of love ; plenty and poverty, of fortune ; and success and failure, of all undertakings.

159.

A man can never be happy unless he is self-centred. It is the *not-self* that troubles him. If he can merge himself into the *not-self* or absorb the *no-tself* into him, the duality will be broken, and he will attain perpetual peace.

160.

Never indulge in false hopes of finding anything done for you. You will have to do it yourself, or pay for its doing, in cash or kind. A friendly help is only a debt to be repaid with interest.

161.

Life's best blessing is to live always contented and self-contained. The less you hanker after things you have not, the happier you will be.

162.

Work is the law of life and living ; it promotes health and happiness, peace and prosperity, and leads to eternal bliss.

163.

Man loses more energy in laziness than in active work. It is the rust that wears out iron more rapidly than constant use.

60 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

164.

It is the fulness of the heart, and not of resources that makes a man forget his wants. A heart full of hopes cares not for the empty purse, nor fancies futile fears of future wants.

165.

Judge a man not by what he says, but by what he does. His acts, past and present, taken together, will give you a correct estimation of what he is.

166.

Every bit of pleasure has its price. If it is not paid in advance, one has to pay double for it.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 61

167

In acquiring fortune man brings on his own misfortune—life-long worries, endless troubles, numberless odds, and eternal sufferings.

168.

The spirit of retaliation transforms a saint into Satan. Endurance of evil raises a man to a divine eminence not attainable even by the gods.

169.

Misunderstanding is more serious than many a mistake. Mistakes can be mended, but a misunderstanding will lead you to mistakes at every step

170.

The world is not a place for smooth progress. Full of troubles, and full of impediments are the ways of life; trample them down as you go on, and make the road smooth for your self.

171.

The human mind is by nature ever changing. Sometimes it changes so thoroughly and wonderfully that one cannot reconcile his own past views and acts with his present mentality and conduct.

172

Never rouse the beast in any man, by poking him over and over again. The beast in the man is more ferocious, nay more dangerous, than the beast in the forest

173.

Mistakes many a man makes, but very few try to mend them. Mending a mistake is putting a stop to many more of its like, or even more serious ones than it.

174.

If you treat a devil as a deity, the greater devil in him will develop. No amount of goodness can change a devil into a divine being.

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175.

Never worry about the result of an action if it is well begun, that is, with all sincerity and earnest devotion. An honest intention, if carried out with one's utmost ability, is sure to bring the desired effect.

176.

A smile is not always an expression of cheerful or kindly spirits. At different times it has different meanings; sometimes it indicates profound sorrow or mental agony, sometimes indifference or hate, and sometimes defiance or even vindictive spirit.

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177.

Never put any price upon your own act, but see how people estimate it. The real value of an act is in the appreciation of the public.

178.

A gift never gives so much pleasure to the receiver as to the giver in the name of God. Thrice blessed is the man who can give and receive in the same spirit.

179.

Holy happiness finds her heavenly home where heart meets heart in sacred communion

180.

Man, the best of all created things  
is but a creature of circumstances.

181.

The more you care for the world,  
the less the world will care for you.  
Forget the world and the world will  
never forget you.

182.

Impurities must get out of the  
system, be they of the body or of the  
mind. That is the law of Nature.  
The more you try to hide them, the  
more exposed they will be.

183.

Love is blind, not because it can-  
not see, but because it deprives man of  
his vision.

184.

What is love ? It is voluntary self-  
forgetfulness. It is to forget one's own  
existence, and to be happy in merging  
into something beyond oneself.

185.

The strongest mind does the ear-  
liest yield, and the hardest heart does  
the soonest melt.

186.

Is there no intrinsic happiness in loving? Why then are men so eager for being loved? To be loved is a miserable passivity which none should like or look for.

187.

Death is both the beginning and end of life. The end of the transitory, and the beginning of the eternal.

188.

Tastes differ according to tendencies; tendencies differ according to nature; nature cannot be changed by any human means or efforts.

189.

Pure feeling needs no cover nor expression: expressed or concealed it is equally effective.

190.

"Time waits for nobody," but everybody should watch and wait for its favourable turn to ensure success in any undertaking.

191.

The pain that pierces one's heart when injustice is done to him, is often forgotten when he does injustice to another.

192.

Everything good or bad that comes to the lot of man, comes from God ; but man attributes all that is good to his own merit, and all that is undesirable to the will of God.

193.

Time always plays hide and seek with man. When he wants it to stay, it will fly all the more swiftly ; and when he wants it to pass quickly, it will hang heavily on him.

194.

To err is human, but a moment's error may make a man smart for ever under its painful effect.

195.

Every moment is fraught with wonderful possibilities, and can give you a fresh start in life, if you only avail yourself of the opportunities it affords you.

196.

Man is prone to hold the highest opinion of himself even if he proves to be a sad failure in life, and falters at every step in whatever he undertakes

72 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

197.

Deception is a crime punishable by law, but self-delusion is a sin which drags a man to eternal damnation.

198.

Everything comes at the proper time, but we are never in the proper mood to welcome it.

199.

"Forget and forgive" is the only remedy of an evil done to you. If you cannot forget the evil, you can forgive the evil-doer; even that will make you easy.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 73

200.

Take things as they come, be they evil or good. Every event in life is an adjustment of your past and future accounts.

201.

All formalities are sham and sometimes surely shameful. They are poor conventions to cover one's lack of sincerity.

202.

Confidence creates confidence. The more you distrust any one, the less will there be the chance of his ever being trustworthy.

74 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

203.

If you do good to any one for which he should be grateful to you, be grateful to him if he desists from doing you any harm. Alas ! the world is so degenerating.

204.

You cannot have things to your liking, but you will have to like the existing state of things.

205.

The memory of a favour done by a boasting friend is a source of perpetual torment to the man who has no power nor means to return it.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 75

206.

As soon as you give up anything, after much strain and struggle, as absolutely hopeless or perplexing, it will at once become easy and reassuring.

207.

None can brook criticism of his faults or follies, but can bear the evil fruits of them.

208.

None should have any dread of death. As sleep refreshes the body and the mind, so does death recreate the soul.

76 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

209.

If any one behaves badly to you,  
you should not do the same to him.  
When a dog bites a man, he never  
bites it back.

210.

Nature will always have her way.  
She cannot brook resistance to nor de-  
fiance of her laws. The less you inter-  
fere with her, the greater will be the  
ultimate good, nay universal welfare.

211.

Human love is merely sympathetic,  
but divine love is spontaneous and  
never cares for response.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 77

212.

Never anticipate anything ; for, if  
it be some good it will lose half of its  
relish ; if bad, it will add to your suffer-  
ings. An unexpected good is all the  
more welcome, and an evil unforeseen  
loses half of its sting.

213.

As long as a man makes a noise in  
the world, the world is noisy with his  
name and fame ; but, as soon as he  
stops dead, there is a dead stop in the  
world about him ; or even in mention of  
him.

78 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

214

The centre of the zone of a tempest is always calm and quiet ; so also is the mind of the mighty man ever still and tranquil though there are troubles and tumults raging around him

215.

Make the best use of time, and time will make the best use of you, that is, make you the most useful to the world.

216.

Nature cures all ailments of our body and mind, but nothing can cure the defects of our nature.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 79

217.

Time changes, so does the world ; but there is something unchanged and unchangeable within you : abide by it, and you will never change.

218

Do not seek appreciation of others, but live a life you yourself appreciate in the innermost recesses of your heart.

219.

Love's real beauty lies in its unconsciousness of loving and unconcernedness of being loved.

220.

When any one undervalues the glory achieved by you for some meritorious act, know him to be full of jealousy, and your success all the more worthy of high honours.

221.

Everything is for our good, if we are ourselves good or try to be good. Goodness is born with us, goodness pervades us on all sides—within and without, goodness is in the nature of all things created by God. Evil is our own creation in fact or fancy.

222.

Pure thought promotes peace and happiness, invigorates the body, enriches and ennobles the mind, elevates the soul, prolongs life, and perpetuates the pleasures of man.

223.

Goodness is the name of God ; to be good is to be godly ; therefore, be good and do good as much as you can.

224.

The moment you shake off a worry it is gone for ever. Your frailty fabricates it and your fancy magnifies it.

82 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

225.

The whole life of a man is but the performance of a single act or the fulfilment of a single object. Its diversities simply help its natural development and give it a definite shape.

226.

Unsatisfied desires or unrealised hopes instigate a man to all sorts of violence, and even to desperate deeds.

227.

Nature will always have her own way. All efforts to baffle her design are futile.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 83

228.

Man must be satisfied with his fate, for it is of his own creation. The fruits of his past actions ripen to make up his fate.

229.

Nothing can frighten man if he has a firm faith in the benign grace of God. Fear has no place except in his frenzy or fickleness.

230.

Merge into thine own self, and live in peace and happiness, and in harmony with this world. The state of being self-centred is perpetual bliss.

231.

If you resolve every morning to improve yourself by scrutinising your own weak points and defects, you will certainly rise higher up until you attain the summit of human perfection.

232.

If anything unexpected comes that hurts you, take it to be either the retribution for some evil deed of yours, or the result of some mistake, which you cannot avoid. So do not carp at it, but bear it with patience.

233.

The sun shines in speechless splendour, the moon smiles sweet and serene in silence sublime, the flower blooms and sheds its fragrance in solemn solitude, the earth yields her crops in dumb profusion ; so shine thou in thy full effulgence, and shed thy lustre of perpetual peace and happiness in silent selflessness.

234.

When you cannot satisfy yourself, nobody will be satisfied with you. Self-satisfaction is the best test of one's ability to satisfy the world.

235.

There are many things which man cannot avoid or control ; but there should be nothing indispensable to him.

236.

To slight an insult is to blight it :  
to forget an injury is to get over it :  
to forgive an evil-doer is to give him a death-blow.

237.

Infinite is thy capacity, infinite thy will and wisdom, and in the infinite mercy of God thou canst do infinite good to the world.

238.

There is a course fixed for everything in nature, by the law or will of God. No one can change it, or even modify it as he desires. Man is perfectly helpless in all the affairs of the world.

239.

There is a limit to all enjoyments which no one can exceed. Sight, taste, smell, sound and touch can please only for a few moments, and then become trite and loathsome or even positively painful.

88 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

240.

Nothing loses its relish so soon as that which you most hankered after. Our keenest pleasures are always of the shortest duration.

241.

The self-respect that every man has, is nothing but the consciousness of his identity with the Supreme Self that is within him.

242.

Increase your worth steadily every day, and be worthy of the highest position that a man can attain or aspire after.

VOICES FROM WITHIN. 89

243.

It is time and training that make a perfect man of business. To prosper in any line of business, a man must have a practical training which means first-hand knowledge of the ins and outs of his future duties, and he must wait patiently for the time of reaping the full harvest of his toil.

244.

Sow the seed in howsoever low and filthy a soil, the tree will grow up high in the heavens, and bear sweet fruits, which even the gods may eagerly relish.

90 VOICES FROM WITHIN.

245.

There are stars thousands of times bigger than the sun, which look small and dim because of their immense height, but if any one of them comes down to the level of the sun, the sun will at once dwindle into a black spot or perhaps will altogether lose its very existence in its dazzling effulgence. So, do not judge any one by his look only.

246.

The smallest atom in this world has a position of its own, and its own special importance. There is nothing so insignificant as to be not worth noticing.

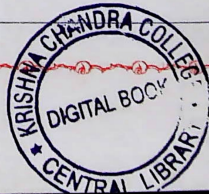
VOICES FROM WITHIN. 91

247.

You cannot check or change the course of nature, but you can help or follow it to your benefit and best advantage ; if you interrupt it, it will react upon you with vengeance and all its vehemence.

248.

To make the best use of one's body and mind, time and circumstances, one's means and resources, energy and influence, one's wit and wisdom, and one's power and position, with the best of intentions and for the good of the world, is the *Summum bonum* of human life and culture.



92

VOICES FROM WITHIN.

249.

Every one maintains his individuality up to the end of his life. You may alter the course of a planet, or the position of a star, but you cannot change the personality of any man.

250.

Whether you shine like the sun or

like to your  
and you  
man or a

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